



DO YOU WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT A TOP TEN NEW GLOBAL THINK TANK? IF SO, DO NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO MR YACOOB ABBA OMAR

Professor Ahmed C Bawa, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Durban University of Technology, invites you to attend an evening of reflection and information-sharing on:

THE RISE OF MAPUNGUBWE INSTITUTE AS A TOP TEN NEW GLOBAL THINK TANK

DATE: Wednesday, 19 March 2014

TIME: 19h00

VENUE: Upper Level Dining Room, Hotel School, Ritson Campus, Durban University of Technology

ADDRESS: Winterton Walk, opposite Curries Fountain/Sastri School, Durban

PROCEEDINGS: 18h30: Welcome Tea and Coffee
19h00: Public Lecture
The Rise of Mapungubwe Institute
as a Top Ten New Global Think Tank
Mr Yacoob Abba Omar

Director of Operations:
Mapungubwe Institute

20h00: Buffet Dinner

RSVP to: nokukhanyas@dut.ac.za
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PUBLIC LECTURE

Yacoob Abba Omar is Director Operations of the Mapungubwe Institute (MISTRA), a Johannesburg-based research institute focussing on socio-economic, political and scientific challenges being faced by South Africa.

Before that he served in several capacities in the public sector: as South Africa's Ambassador to Oman from 2003 to 2008, and then to the United Arab Emirates from 2008 to December 2012; and as the Deputy Director-General of Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) from 1998 to 2002. Prior to that he had spent almost 5 years as the General Manager: Corporate Affairs of the Ministry of Defence's procurement wing, Armscor. During this period he was appointed onto several public sector structures, including the board of the New Media Institute for South Africa (NEMISA) and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC).

He headed up the Presidency's Scenario Project in 2002 and then in 2007. He acquired his expertise in developing scenarios during his business studies through UNISA's School of Business Leadership, working with members of the Shell Scenarios, as well as the UK's Ministry of Defence. Between 2000 and 2003 he ran a module on 'Risks and Scenarios' for Master's students at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

Before South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, Abba spent many years fighting against apartheid as a student leader, community organiser and as an underground operative of the ANC. For his efforts he was detained on several occasions and eventually went into exile in 1985 to escape imprisonment. He continued serving the African National Congress on a full-time basis until the 1994 elections.

He is currently reading for his PhD on 'Sovereignty and National Identity in South Africa' through Wits University. He graduated with an M.Phil in South African Political Economy through NMMU and completed the Advanced Executive Programme through the School of Business Leadership of the University of South Africa. He also holds an Honors Degree in Combined Politics and History from UKZN.

In 1998 Abba was decorated by the Minister of Defence for 15 years of Distinguished Service and in 2008 he was decorated by the Sultan of Oman with the Naumann Award (Class One) for International Relations.

Abba currently serves on the boards of Airborne Trust, which looks at job-creating projects for former combatants, and Big Media, which looks at start-up business proposals in the new media arena. He is also an Advisory Board member of the Institute for International Management Practice, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.

